

First Wisconsin Cavalry Reg.

Col. DANIELS, Commanding.

Camp Harvey, December 18th 1861

Kenosha Wisconsin.

Letterhead:

Dear Sister

**[Liberty and Union
Now and Forever.]** *I take this opportunity
to write you a few lines
to let you know that I am well
and in good spirits. I did not calen
late(?) to till after I had ben home
but my pay was so small after
paying for the close(clothes) that I have had.
So that I have put it off until the 8(th)
of next month. I have got my uniform
you will see by the likeness(a photo) that I
send with the letter. They is a good ___? ___
of sickness hear at present with the
measleus and lung fever yesterday
their was forty or fifty in the
hospitable and was 18
from our company they was one
of Co H man died yesterday and
Sent home on the (train)cars We had*

a pretty good time coming down
to Camp Harvey we got stuck in
a snow bank once or twice they good
many of the boys pretty tight and they
was one in our Company had to be
tied and gaged insultishy(?) the bropting(?)
every time he came into (train)car when
we go to fort atkson we got our supper
we had it fetch(ed) into the (train)cars for we were
not allowed to go out we had a
pretty good supper and a nuf of it but
we should had a better if we had got
there one hour sooner for the farmers
made up their minds that we was
coming so they went home. We
left the fort about 9 oclock and
got into kenosha about 6 o clock the
next morning when we got out
of the (train)cars and formed into line
and march(ed) the streest and a
round the park and house back
to the frankling(?) hall and their
Co A and C stop to their quarters

and we marched down to the
Dunkee(?) house and up our quarters
and a bout one hour we wer
call(ed) down to beakfast we went
into a room about 20 feet
sqare and stood up and took our
Raitions with bread and meat
and coffee we staid their 10 days
and moved into Camp we dug a
into the ground 1 foot and put a
floor in and boared it up and put
four bunks up wich makes it
look like a lumber shanty and
then we went down town and
bought a cook stove and furniture
wich cost 13 Dollars so we clean
our raitions and cook them our
selves wich goes prety well. The
boys have ben prety steady
here so far some of them got
tite (tight)and theay tide(tied) them and
put them in the City Jail
Theay are building a guard house

wich will hold fiffeen persons.
Theay put rassou (?) rooms
in it and got big steeples(?) and
rings drove into the floor they feet
to the foor and strech their arm
and tie them to the sidse of
room. The people here use us
first rate they have made bed
ticks pillows and pillow cakes
for the sick and they offerd to
take some of them home with(with crossed out)
but the officers would not let
them go the Col has ben to washington
and he says that we are all write
and that we will soon get
our horses and arms I shall
have to close for I am on guard.
So good by

R L Stewart



Liberty and Union,
Now and Forever.

First Wisconsin Cavalry Reg.

Col. DANIELS, Commanding.

Camp Harvey, Green Bay, 1861

Kenosha Wisconsin.

Dear Sister

I take this opportunity
to write you a few lines
to let you know that I am well
and in good spirits. I did not calculate
to till after I had been home
but my pay was so small after
paying for the horse that I have had.
So that I have put it off until the 8
of next month. I have got my wife
you will see by the likeness that I
send with the letter. She is
of sickness here at present with the
measles and dandy fever yesterday
she was forty or fifty in the
~~hospital~~ hospital and was 18
from our company they was one
of the men died yesterday and
sent home on the cars We had

partly good time down
to Camp Harvey we got stuck in
a snow bank once or twice they took
many of the dogs pretty far but they
was one in our company had to be
tied and gaged in ^{my} the night
every time he came into car. When
we got ^{to} Fortaskson we got our supper
we didn't fetch into the cars for we were
not allowed to go out we had a
very good supper and a cup of it but
we should had a better if we had got
there one hour sooner for the farmers
made up their minds that we was
coming so they won't home. We
left the post about 9 o'clock and
got into Benoka about 6 o'clock the
next morning when we got out
of the cars and formed into line
and march the street and a
round the park and come back
to the Frankling hall and then
to A and B stop to their quarters

and we marched down to the
Smith's house and up our st ~~quater~~
and about one hour we ~~re~~
call down to breakfast we went
into a room about 20 feet
square and stood up and took our
rations with bread and meat
and coffee we staid this 10 days
and moved into camp. we dug a
into the ground 10 foot and put a
floor in and board it up and put
four bunks up with makes it
look like a lumber ~~party~~ and
then we went down town and
bought a cook stove and furniture
which cost 13 dollars so we leave
our rations and cook them our
selves which goes pretty well. The
boys have been pretty steady
here so far some of them got
tired and they take them and
put them in the City Jail
they are building a grand house

wick will hold fifteen person
they ~~now~~ put ~~run~~ ~~in~~
in it and got big staples and
rings drove into ^{the} floor they put
to the floor and stuck their arm
and tie them to the side of
room. the people here use no
first rate they have made bed
ticks pillows and pillow cases
for the sick and they offered to
take some of them home ~~with~~
but the officers would not let
them go the hol has her to wash ^{glan}
and he says that we are all well
and that we will soon get
our horses and arms I shall
have to close for I am on guard
so good by

R I Stewart

**Lithograph of soldier
and horse]**

Camp Harvey Kenosha

Dec. 21st 1861

Dear Sister

*I take this opportunity
to write to you a*

Letterhead:

**Liberty and Union,
Now and Forever.**

*gain but I dont
know as I shall make
it out it has ben very*

*Cold here for the past two days.
yesterday we did not drill anny
but to day we form into ranks
and march out on the prade ground
and went through two or three
Commands and we were a marching a
long by fours wehn they give us
the Command to halt and
then he told us one of our Company
had died this morning he had
the measles and mumps we have
got to form in to line and es
cort him down to the (train)cars
and there he will be sent home
his name is Howard Grant.*

that make three that have died
in this regiment their is about
forty in the hospittable now their
has ben eighty sick in all and
they got well and gone home on
furlows untill after newyears
the Colnel telligraph to washington
to see iff he Couldnt let the boys
have furlows Cristmas and newyears.
We expt to have our horses right
after newyears their is about tenn
hundred men when they are all
here we have ben crowded in our tent
for a few days their has ben from
six to twelvef to sleep and eat in
our tent from a new Company that
have Just come in our Capting and
our first leutenaint have gon off a
recruiting for a new Company and
we do not get along very well
in our drill with the exceptiogn
of that we are a getting (a)long first
rate we have two or three fiddles

*in our Company so we have a
pretty good time playing and singing
I don't know but I shall have
to Close for dinner is pretty near
readdy and then we have got to
march down to the (train)cars where four
from our Company take him
home I want you to write
as soon as you get this I have
wrote two letter (to) John(brother) but I
dont(know) that he has got them as he
never goes to the postoffice so now
good by Your affectionate
 Brother Robert L Stewart*

*Direct yours letters to Camp
Harvey Kenosha Co D*



Liberty and Union,
Now and Forever.

Camp Carney Kansas
Dec 21st 1861

Dear Sister

I take this opportunity
to write to you a
gain but I don't
know as I shall make
it out it has been very
cold here for the past two days.
yesterday we did not drill any
but to day we form into ranks
and march out on the parade ground
and went through two or three
Commands and we were a marching a
long by fours when they gave us
the command to halt and then
then he told us one of our company
had died this morning he died
the measles and mumps we have
got to form in to line and es
cort him down to the cars
and there he will be sent home
his name is Howard Grant

K
L-2
that make three that have died
in this regiment this is about
forty in the hospitalable now this
has been eighty sick in all and
they got well and gone home on
furlows untill after newyears
the Col. telegraphed to Washington
to see if he couldnt let the boys
furlows Christmas and newyears.

We expect to have our horses right
after newyears this is about ten
hundred men when they are all
here we have been crowded in our tent
for a few days this has been from 4
up to twelve to sleep and eat in
our tent from a new company that
have just come in our Captain and
our first lieutenant have ^{gone} off a
recruiting for a new company and
we do not get along very well
in our drill with the exception
of that means a getting long furl
rate we have two or three fiddles

K
6-2

in our company so we have a
pretty good time playing and singing
I dont know but I shall have
to close for dinner is pretty near
ready and then we have got to
march down to the cars where four
from our company take him
home I want you to write
as soon as you get this I have
wrote two letters John but I
dont that he has got them as he
never goes to the postoffice so now
Good by Your affectionate
Brother Robert L Stewart

Direct your letters to Camp
Harvey Kenosha Co G

Camp Harvey Kenosha (Wis)
March 2 1861(2)

Dear Sister

I received your letter the
28(th) and was glad to hear that
you are well and hope that this
will find you the same I was
on guard the day that your letter
came so that I did not get it
untill dark but I had given up
the idea of getting anny and it is
same at home but I shall
write one more home and if
they dont answer it I shall quit
it is dull hear now they put
us on extra drill and cut us short on
raitions a week a go we expected
to go home or south by this time
but now I don't expect we shall
know anny thing abouted it for a
month to come and we shall
stay hear a month longer and
may be may be longer but we
expect to go the major read

a letter from (Colonel) Dannills he said they
would take two reigiments
from this state and if that is so
we shall go but we shall not
see anny engagement. ^{major} gofer
has around exjaming our tent the
adgnant read an order that when the
major came in the tents that we
must form into a line and
salute him when we heard that
he was a coming the most of them
got into their beds and they was
five of us a writing and we turn
our back to him when he came
in we wear all busey a writing
the first thing that we knew
he told (us) to be carfull and not let
the potatoes rot we told him
that their no danger for we did
not see one onley once a week
he turn around and left he is a
old tyrant he is got a cut

on his head with a sabre it was so
dull that it onley cut his head
a little we expect to get our pay
this week iff we do I shall try to
come home I'drother fetch the money
than send it home. Their will be a
60 dollars their will (be) about 50 dollars
left paying after paying for what I
have had it is a getting so cold and
crowed that I shall have to close I
have to take a bord and put it
on my knees to write If you
should see John (brother) or any of the of
them you tell them to
write if they want me to
write I send my love to you
all so now good by

From your afecttionate

Brother

Robert L Stewart

K
L-3

Camp Henry Henshaw
Dear Peter March 2, 1864

I received your letter the
28th and was glad to hear that
you are well and hope that this
will find you the same I was
so glad the day that your letter
came so that I did not get it
until dark but I had given up
the idea of getting away and it is
same at home but I shall
write one more home and if
they don't answer it I shall quit
I it is well hear now they put
us on extra ^{will} and cut us short on
rations a week ago we expected
to go home or south by this time
but now I don't expect we shall
know any thing about it for a
month to come and we shall
stay here a month longer and may
maybe be longer but we
expect to go the major read

-1-

K
63

10/11 a letter from Danmills he said they
would take two regiments
from this state and if that is so
we shall go but we shall not
see any engagement. Major Gifer
has moved up joining our tent the
adjuant read an order that when the
anapa came in the tents that we
must form into a line and
wait here when we heard that
he was coming the most of them
got into their beds and they was
fine of us a writing and we laid
our backs to him when he came
in we was all busy a writing
the first thing that we knew
he told to be careful and not let
the potatoes rot in the state. I him
that there was no danger for we did
not see any enemy once a week
he turn around and left he is a
old tyrant he is not get to end

K
C-3

on his head with a sack it was so
small that it only sent his head
a little we expect to get our pay
this week if we do I shall try to
come home I brother fetch the money
then send it home. This will be a
60 dollars this will about 50 dollars
left paying after paying ^{for} what I
have had it is a getting so cold and
crowded that I shall have to close I
have to take a board and put it
on my knees to write. If you
should see John or any of the of
them you tell them to
write if they want me to
write I send my love to you
all so now good by

From your affectionate
Brother

Robert L. Stewart.

[Large lithograph picture of barracks
here with soldiers marching and
soldiers on horseback]

CAMP BENTON ST. LOUIS
Looking East.

March 20 1862

Dear Sister

*I take this opportunity to write you a
few lines to let you know that I
am well and that I am in the land of
secession. But we had quit atime before we got of
the of march we were order out on the parade
ground in close Collums and then Major Legrange told
us we were to saint Louis at Benton Barrcs but
it was by the Colnel so we could
get our pay but we had to go without it.
The day that we was to go the Colnel and
Govenor Harvey and the secatary of State came
to look at the reigiment we were call(ed) out for
A review at twelve o clock we were form in
line when the Colnel and govennor and
staff rode up the governor took his post in
the center of the reigiment then we had to
draw and prsent sabre then the Colnel give
the plattons to right while then we march(ed) a
round the parade ground two or three times*

when we march(ed) into close collum when the
Govennor spoke to us about fifteen minutes
he said said that he expected to see sum
good marching but that it was much
better than he expcted to see then he ask
us to go and that he expected great reports
from us the Colnel answered him and then
he turn aroun and told us what atime he
had to washington, and he said that we were all
right. Sunday the 15 we had to cook three days raitons
and put them in our knapsack so that we
could take the (train) cars monday (17)morning we had to
get up at 5 o c for rool call at a have past
six the horn sounded for striking our tents when
every one fell at once the(n) we packed them up and
at seven we fell into ranks at have past
seven we march out on the prade ground and
and at eight we march down to the(train)cars where
the Laides give us sum breakfast and at nine
fifty we got on the cars and started
for saint Louis the first place we came to
was waukegan that is a very pretty place
the country betwene their is very low and
wet but about forty rods west of the
rail road their a high ridge and it look so that
their might be some good land the boys keep
pretty busysy a waiving their hankerchiefs and
hats for the Laides came out and awaive their hank-
erchiefs and at the villiages they turned out all

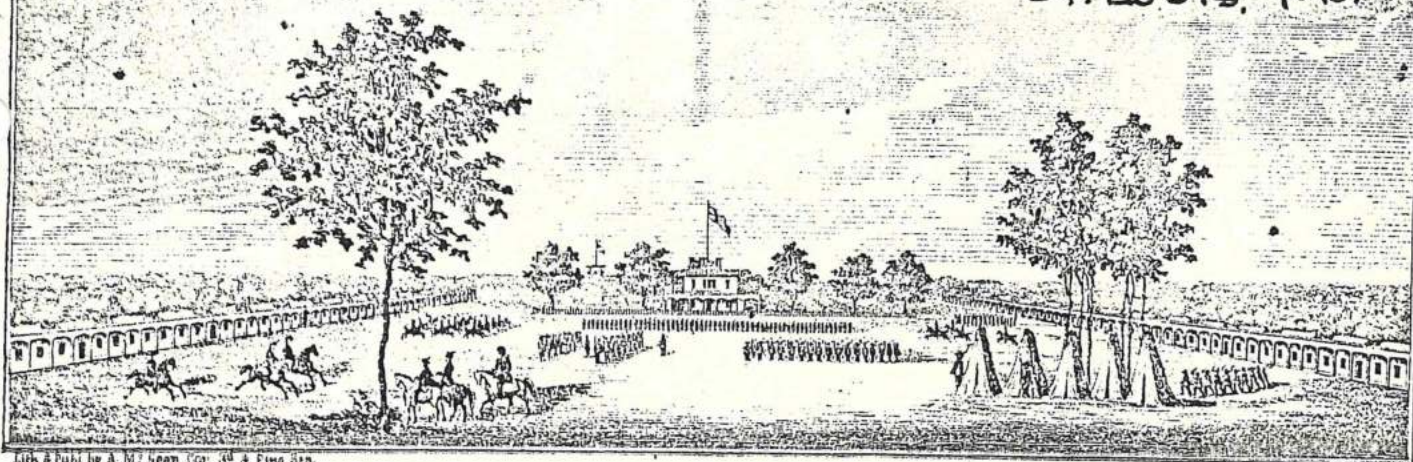
a long the road we got in chicago about three o clock wher we had to change cars while the freight train was swicking around wehad a street prade sum of the time the mud was up to our boot tops but we done sum good march(ing) and the band played first rated we marched pretty near all over the citty when we march down to the cars and got aboard and then they pass around sum coffee we left chicago about six o clock for saint Louis the country for about twenty five miles is low and wet but I should think that it was pretty rich land I can't tell you much more for to night for I am to sleepy the cars stopd two or three times during the night but I was to sleepy to get up when I woke up in the morning we was a bout twenty five miles from springfield we soon came to a place call atlanta it is a small place and prety low the next place was sprin field that is a hansom place and it is a very large place and it has got sum nice buildens and the country looks more like home the country is a bout the same untill we got within about three miles from alton when it is very hilly and rough we got to alton about have past one and their we had to leave the cars and take the steamboat to saint Louis their is about five hundred secess prisinors here

we did not leave alton untill have past ten
in the evening on acount of the other train did
not get in on time enough for us for us
our things loaded _____ what time
we got into saint Louis for I was asleep
when we got _____ in the morning
we were marched off from the boat out
onto the streets Saint is a very large place
the town part of the town the streets are
very narrow is so narrow that two teams
cant hardly pass but the uper part of the
town is anice place then we had to march out
to Benton Barracks wich is about four miles
we got there about nine o clock it is a very
large camp it will hold about thirty thousand
their is about twenty thousand here now
but I have not seen as good (a) lot of men as
we have got and we can beat them drilling
to there was three prisonors here Monday by the
out sides I don't expect to get anny pay
here for our Lieutennant said that we _____
have to leave for the south within four days
I send my love to you all so now good by

Robert L Stewart

Direct your letters
to Bentons Barracks saint Louis Mo
First reigiments of Wis Caveliry Co D

March 20 1862
St. Louis, Mo.



CAMP BENTON (St. Louis,

Looking East.

Dear Sister

March 20 1862

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how I am, well and that I am in the hands of a surgeon. But we had not time before we got up to the 4 of march we were out on the parade ground in close column and then Major Lagrange told us we were to visit Louis at Benton Barracks but ~~it was~~ it was by the Colonel ~~we~~ we could not get our pay but we had to go without it. The day that we was to go the Colonel and Governor Harvey and the secretary of State came to look at the regiment we were called out for a review at twelve o'clock we were formed in line when the Colonel and governor and staff rode up the governor took his post in the center of the regiment then we had to draw and present sabre then the Colonel gave the platoons the right wheel then we marched a round the parade ground two or three times.

when we march into close column when the
governor spoke to us about fifteen minutes
he said said that he expected to see men
good marching but that it was much
better than he expected to see then he ask
us to go and that he expected great reports
from us the Colonel answered him and then
he turn around and told us what time he
had to Washington and he said that we were all
right Sunday the 15 we had to cook three large rations
and put them in our knapsack so that we
could take the cars Monday morning we had to
get up at 5 o'clock for roll call at 6 o'clock
The horn sounded for sliding our tents when
every one fell at once the men packed them up and
at seven we fell into ranks at half past
seven we march out on the parade ground and
and at eight we march down to the cars where
the Guides give us dinner breakfast and at nine
fifteen ~~we~~ we got in the cars and started
for Saint Louis the first place we came to
was Warburg that is a very pretty place
the country between this is very low and
wet but about forty rods north of the
said road this a high ridge and it look so that
this might be some good land the boys keep
pretty busy a raining this hankies and
hats for the Guides came out and gave their hank-
chiefs and at the villages they turned out all

a long the road we got in chicago about three
o'clock when we had to change. call while the
bright train was snickering around we had a short
prade sun of the time the wind was up ^{ing} to
our boot tops but we done some good march
and the band played first rated we marched
pretty near all over the city when we
march down to the cars and got a band and
then they gave around some coffee we left
chicago about six o'clock for saint louis
the country for about twenty five miles ~~the~~
is now and well but I should think that
it was pretty rich land I cant tell you
much more for to night for I am to sleep
the cars I slept two or three times during the
night but I was too sleepy to get up when I
woke up in the morning we was about
twenty five miles from spring field we
soon came to a place call atlanta it is a small
place and pretty low the next place was spring
field that is a handsome place and it is a pretty
large place and it ~~is~~ has got some nice buildings
and the country looks more like home the
country is about the same untill we got within
about three miles from altan when it is
very busy and rough we got to altan about
have past ~~for~~ one and then we had to leave
the cars and take the steamboat to saint louis
this is about five hundred seven prisoners here

Direct your letter Robert L Stewart
to Binton Barracks saint Louis Mo
First regiment of Miss Cavalry Co D

1862

Benton Barracks St Louis April 1

Dear Sister

*I receive your letter on the first
I am well at present with the
exception of a slight that I have
got but I am a getting over their
is a good many of the boys sick
at present but not as manny as
there has ben it is mostfy from
colds the three or four first days
that we were here it was cold and
wet and the wether was damp and
a little diffirent from what
it was at Kenosha but I guess
that they will get better in a
few days one of Co. I boys died
yesterday appoplexey(stroke) Govennor Harvey
is hear and we had a review last
saturday we can beat anny thing
hear a marching around heare the officers
say that we shall (go) to new mexico
to guard the mail route if we go
there I think we shall have to stay
our three years out we have got
our pay at last I did not send
as much as I expected to send*

on a count that I had to get a pair of boots
then I bought a portifolio and three dollars
of paper and postage stamps I wrote to
John(brother) on thursday that I would send four
potographs with the money I went and
set for them and they spoilt them
so I can't do it I shall send them by
mail I sent the money by express
so John will have to come to ripon(Wisconsin)
you must tell him that he must
give mother some of it I got a
letter from John since I have ben here
they were all well then mother had
ben down to Hellen(s)(sister) for a week we
expect to get our horses next monday I am
on cook we have to cook a week for a time
we cook about the same as we did to ripon
except we cook by companys they detail four
cooks and a corporal to oversee us I dont feel
like writting so I shall have to stop
I send my best respcts to you all
so good by

From your affectionate Brother
Robert L Stewart

1862
Benton Barracks S & Louis April 1

Dear Sister

I receive your letter on the first
I am well at present with the
exception of a slight that I have
got but I am a getting over this
is a good many of the boys sick
at present but not as many as
there has been it is mostly from
colds the three or four first days
that we were here it was cold and
wet and the weather was damp and
a little different from what
it was at Kenosha but I guess
that they will get better in a
few days one of Co I boys died
yesterday apoplexy Governor Harvey
is here and we had a review last
saturday we can beat any thing
has a marching around here the officers
say that we shall go to new mexico
to guard the mail route if we go
there I think we shall have to stay
over three years and we have got
our pay at last I did not send
as much as I expected to send

-1- April 1, 1862

April 1 1862 (2)

on account that I had to g. & a pair of boots
then I bought a portfolio and three Dollars
of paper and postage stamps I wrote to
John on Thursday that I would send four
photographs with the money I went and
set for them and they spoiled them
so I cant do it I shall send them by
mail I sent the money by express
so John will have to come to ripon
you must tell him that he must
give mother some of it I got ~~was~~ a
letter from John since I have been here
they were all well then mother had
been down to Hellen for a week in
expect to get our horses next Monday I am
an cook we have to cook a week for a time
we cook about ~~the~~ the same as we did to ripon
except we cook by company's they detail four
cooks and a corporal to oversee us I dont feel
liking writing so I shall have to stop
I send my best respects to you all
so good by

From your affectionate Brother
Robert L Stewart

[Lithograph of two war ships here]

U. S. NAVAL EXPEDITION

1862

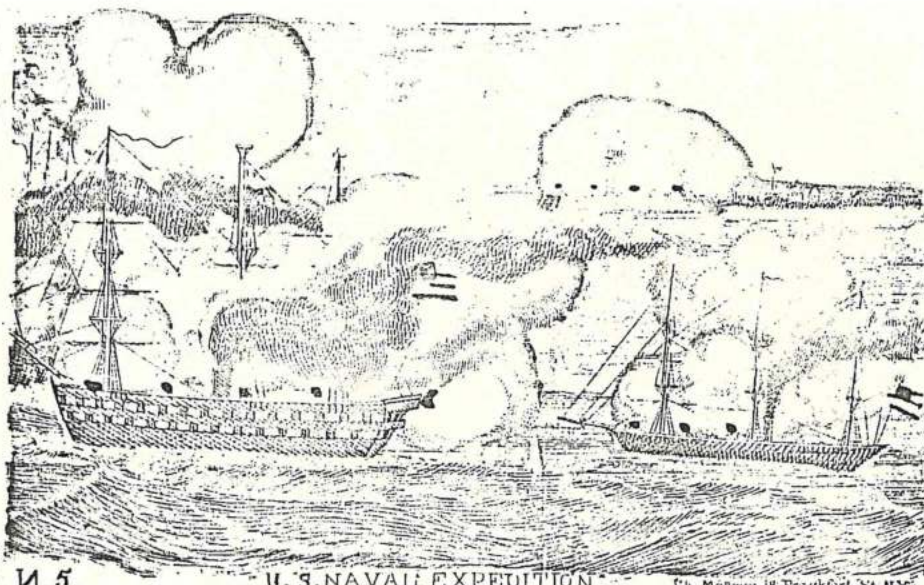
Cape Girardau MO April 30

Dear Sister

*I sit down on the prision
steps while I am off from
guard to let you know where
I am you will see by the heading
of the letter what troops that are
here now a pretty rough set
one of the reigtment that is here
are a getting on the boat to leave
for pilsbury I just had to take
a revolver from there boys he
was tight and drawed on one of
the citizens it is a nice looking
place here and it looks so that*

*it was healthy hear the night
before we got hear. Jef Tombson
with two hundred men within
four miles of here and broke in
a union man(s) house and rais (raised)
the deivel (devil) with him and then
got on there horses and left.
Just as soon as we can get our
horses shod we shall be put on
scouting and sent all over the
Country then we shall have
a pretty good time we left 7
Companies at saint louis Company
A G M D and B was the
ones that left we shall have
to stand guard every other day
so it will keep us pretty busey
I shall have to close for I have
got to go on guard to guard
sescs (secession) prisinor so good by
direct your letters by the heading
of this letter from your affectionate.*

R L Stewart



V. 5.

U. S. NAVAL EXPEDITION

Ch. Magnus. 12 Broadway St. N.Y.

Cape Girardeau MO April 30¹⁸⁶²

Dear Sister

I sit down on the prison
steps while I am off from
guard to let you know where
I am you will see by the heading
of the letter what troops that are
here now a pretty rough set
one of the regiment that is here
are a getting on the boat to leave
for pickensburg I just had to take
a revolver from there boys he
was tight and drawed on one of
the citizens it is a nice looking
place here and it looks so that

it was healthy hear the night
before we got hear Jeff Tompson
with two hundred men within
four miles of here and broke in
a union man house and rais
the devil with him and then
got on there horses and left
just as soon as we can get our
horses shed we shall be put on
scouting and sent all over the
country then we shall have
a pretty good time we left 4
companies at saint louis ^{my} Camp
A G M D and B was the
ones that left we shall have
to stand guard every other day
so it will keep us pretty busy
I shall have to close for I have
got to go on guard to guard
saves prisoners to good by
Direct your letters by the heading
of this letter from your affectionate
R L Stewart

[Letterhead here shows lithograph
of three cavalry men on horses
with sabre's drawn]

Cape Girardeau Mo. May 19 1862

Dear Sister

*I shall have to write
to you a gain before I
get one from you I have not
had one from you since
the first of april I dont
know I dont know but
it is the same with you
but this is the fourth
letter with out receiving anny
answered. I am well at present
it is avery healthy place*

hear the post surgeon says that
their has ben only three deaths
in three years he is a first rate
doctor he has ben rais to a
Major in rank and the pay of
lieut. Colnel the reigtment
is of a scoutting this is the
third time they have been out
they never go out without
fitching in some of the
Jay hawkers I never have had the
luck to be with them I have
awlways ben on duty the
last time they went
I was detail for guard to
take some prisoners up to
St. Louis so they have pool
me out of a fight there
was a lot of our boys went
and pitch in to a rebel
camp and took fifty prisoners

and Colnel Phelleons they
have got his best suit
of cloths here at head quarters.
but Townsand had his horse
shot from under him there
was six bullets holes in
his horse and one of them
pass through his boot leg they
took the camp and baggage
they took the Col horses and
the lieutenants horses and all
of there rinctums on friday
the advance guard had a
fight there was only thirty
of our boys and 80 of the
secess (cession) they were Just across
the line in arkansafs when
they saw the camp they
pushed on but they had
to stop and cross white
river the rebels had the ferry

*boat on the other side of
the river tuttle and one of
the other boys swum a cross
the river and got it when
they got it over they couldnt
only 15 cross at once so
when the first 15 got over
they marched up on the bank
and started for their camp
Lagrange told them to
fall back wait untill the
other come up but they couldnt
hear him as soon as the other
15 got over he see that they were
abound to have a fight he told
them to charge they could hear
that they pitch in to them and kill
eleven and wound 17 and took them
prisonors the rest of them
went off and (I or d**crossed out)
dubell(double) quick time and left*

[balance of letter is missing]



May 19. 1862
Cape Girardeau
Mo.

Cape Girardeau Mo. May 19 1862

Dear Sister

I shall have to write
to you a gain before I
get one from you I have not
had one from you since
the first of April I don't
know I don't know but
it is the same with you
but this is the ~~same~~ fourth
letter with out receiving any
answer I am well at present
it is a very healthy place

17
K
hear the post surgeon says that
there has been only three deaths
in three years he is a first rate
doctor he has been ~~to~~ raised to a
Major in rank and the pay of
Lieut. Colonel the regiment
is off a scouting this is the
third time they have been and
they never go out without
fletching in some of the
sawyers I never have had the
luck to be with them I have
always been on duty the
last time they went
I was detail for guard to
take some prisoners up to
St Louis so they have fool
me out of a fight there
was a lot of our boys went
and pitch into a rebel
camp and took fifty prisoners

K
L-7

and Colonel Shillans they
have got his best suit
of cloths here at head quarters
but Townsend had his horse
shot from under him there
was six bullets holes in
his horse and one of them
pass through his boot leg they
took the camp and baggage
they took the Cal horses and
the lieutenants horses and all
of there provisions on Friday
the advance guard had a
fight there was only thirty
of our boys and 80 of the
rebels ~~there~~ they were just across
the ~~line~~ in arkansas when
they saw the camp they
pushed on but they had
to stop and cross white
river the rebels had the ferry

K
L-7

boat on the other side of
the river. Tullie and one of
the other boys swam across
the river and got it when
they got it over they couldn't
only 15 cross at once so
when the first 15 got over
they marched ^{up} the bank
and started for their camp.
Lagrange told them to
fall back wait until the
other come up but they couldn't
hear him as soon as the other
15 got over he saw that they were
about to have a fight he told
them to charge they could hear
that they pitch in to them and kill
slaves and wounded 14 and took them
prisoners the rest of them
went off and I ~~could~~
didn't give time and left

- 4 -

Balance of letter is missing

(19)

[Large lithograph picture
of barracks here with
soldiers marching and
soldiers on horseback]

BENTON BARRACKS

from South East.

Cape Girardeau June 23 1862

Dear Sister

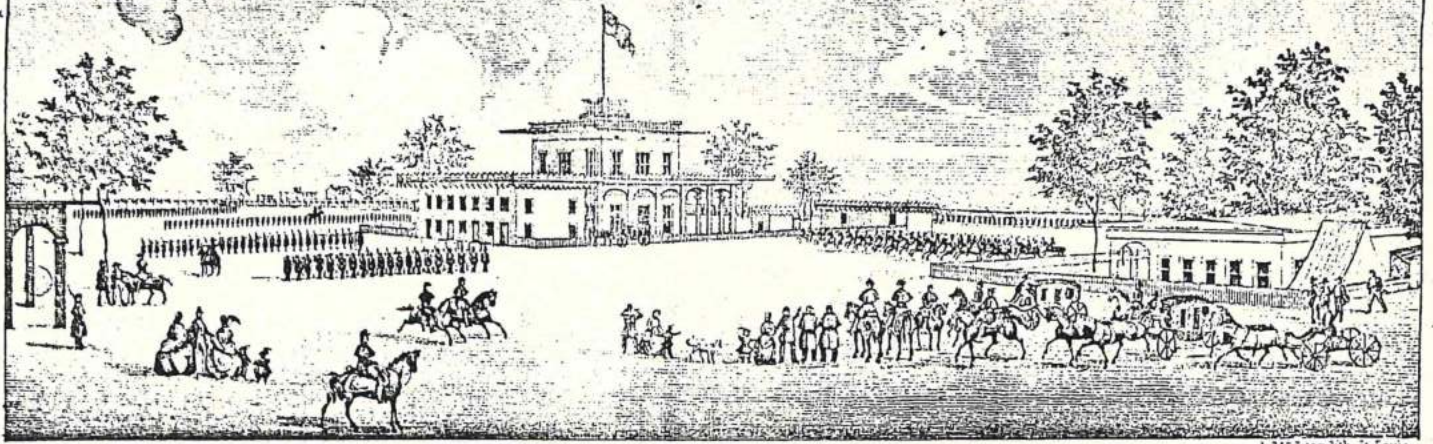
*I receive your(s) on the 14 and
should have answerd it before but it
was to late for we started on a scouting
expedition in arkansas was gone eight days
and it did not mount to much We
started at four pM and went twenty miles
and camp for the night we started at eight
in the morning and went to the St. francis
river cross over in to arkansas and went four
miles and camp for supper at eight in the
evening we started f(crossed out) again and camp
and and slept two hours and saddle and off we
went eight miles from there we camp
for the day it was so warm that we
could not travel we stop at a place call
scattervill I did not see much for there*

was not anny thing to see for there was
no one but women and niggers there with
the exception of a man dnow(down) and then we
left there at sun down and went to
gainsvill that was the end of our Journey
for ther was no feed for our horses took a
lot of prisinor on the way back we serched
every house and took all the guns that we
could find we took mules horses niggers
and men all a long the road we took
one of ther master(s) he had ten thousand
in the script and a order for forty thousand
more. This was my first scouting and I
guefs it will be the last one for the way
things are a working I guefs that we will
come home we are a hundred miles from
the cape down in the wildernefs where
the is no one not anny thing and not
anny thing to do only lay a round the
camp and a langger lot of men you
nenes(?) so we have firstrate living now
it is corn dodgers mush and bacon and
some of the time not a nuff of that
there is not anny youse of saying anny
thing about the people for evry of ten when
we see them they will ask us what part
of missourie wisconsin is in or what part
of illinois wisconsin is in it seems that

*they think that there is no other state
but missourie and illinois so you
can Jidge what they are I have got
to take my horse out to feed so I
shall have to close I send my
love to mother and to you all so good
by from your Brother*

R L Stewart

June 23, 1862



BENTON BARRACKS

from South East.

A. M. Leon. lith. St. Louis.

Cape Girardeau June 23 1862
Dear Sister

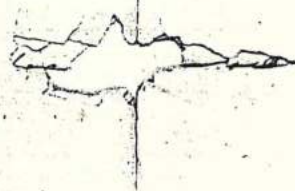
I receive yours on the 14 and should have answered it before but it was too late for we started on a scorching expedition in Arkansas and was gone eight days and it did not amount to much. We started at four p.m. and went twenty miles and camp for the night. We started at eight in the morning and went to the St. Francis river cross over in to Arkansas and went four miles and camp for supper at eight in the evening we started ~~for~~ again and ~~and~~ camp and and slept two hours and saddle and off we went eight miles from there we camp for the day it was so warm that we could not travel we stop at a place call Scatterwill I did not see much for there

June 23, 1862

19

was not any thing to see for there was
no one but women and niggers this with
the exception of a man arrow and then we
left there at sun down and went to
gainsville that was the end of our ^{cy} journey
for there was no feed for our horses took a
lot of prisoners on the way back we searched
every house and took all the guns that we
could find we took mules horses niggers
and men all a long the road we took
one of the ~~the~~ quartermaster he had ten thousand
in the script and a order for forty thousand
more. This was my first scouting and I
guess it will be the last one for the way
things are a working I guessing that we will
come home we are a hundred miles from
the cape down in the wilderness where
there is no one not any thing and not
any thing to do only lay around the
camp and a large lot of men ~~you~~ you
men so we have first rate living now
it is corn dodgers mush and bacon and
some of the time not a ruff of that
there is not any you of saying any
thing about the people for very often when
we see them they will ask us what part
of missouri wisconsin is in or what part
of illinois wisconsin is in it seems that

they think that there is no other state
but missouri and illinois so you
can judge what they are I have got
to take my horse out to feed so I
shall have to ~~put~~ close I send my
love to mother and to you all so good
by from your Brother
R L Stewart



[Letter head printed with lithograph
of Gen. McClellan, one soldier, and
tents with the U.S. flag displayed]

*Head quarters Camp Lagrange
first Reigmt of wis Volunteer
Co.d July 6 1862*

Dear sister

*I take this opportunity
to write you a few lines to
let you know that I am
well and in good spirrits
for I don't' know when
I shall get a nother chance*

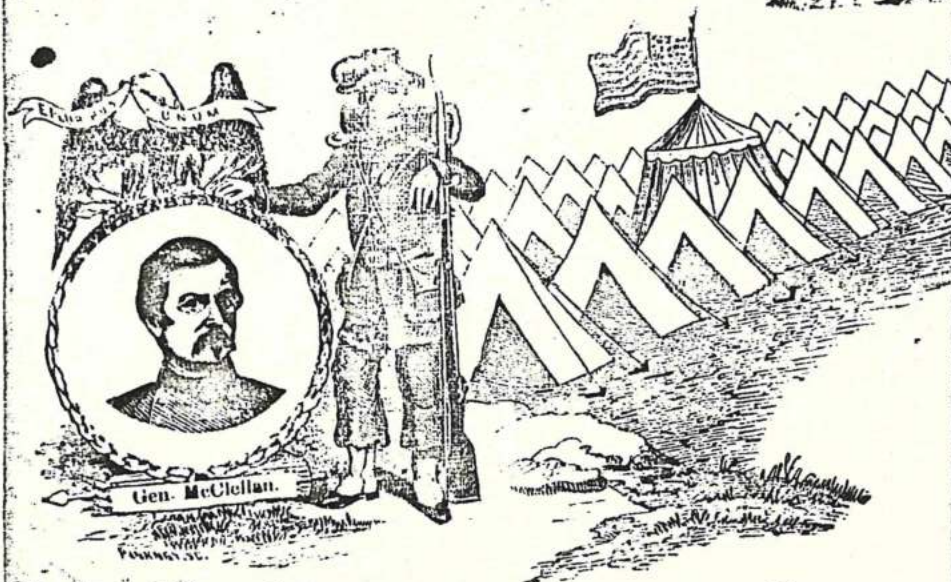
[because of the large letterhead,
the letter continues on the next page]

to write again for we
are a going to start for
(bloomfield is crossed out) arkansas today
down in the southern part
it will take a week to go
and the same to come back
and we shall stay there three
or four weeks our second
Lientenant died yesterday he
was taken down with the
plurasee(pleurisy) and he got piesoned (poisoned)
a going through the swamps
so that a sore coars out on him
and it commence a mortifying
he was sick only a week they
start for milwaukee this
morning his name was
Fredrieks he leaves a wife and
five children s(o) we have got
no lieutenants now the
second and third of July I had
two days of hard ridding went
84 miles and it was awful

hot but we did not see
anny thing of the ennimy
we sorounded a house where
they said they was twenty
five men but they had
gone so that was the end of
that we got our pay yesterday
but we had to pay for our
cloths signning the lotmon
roll didnt leave me much
but it was a knuf to carry
around in this country
for we cant spend it mother
will get twenty dollars
by the time this gets
home if not before and
the same every two months
as long as I am in the
army I spent my fourth
of July in bloomfield I
eat black berries and drink
lemmon ade about all day
at night we got some

*of our boys and sung songs
untill midnight I shall
have to close for I have got
to get readdy to start
so good by from your
Brother R L St*

K
L-9
July 1862
Camp Lagrange



Head quarters Camp Lagrange
first Regt of Wis volunteers
Co. C July 6 1862

Dear sister

I take this opportunity
to write you a few lines to
let you know that I am
well and in good spirits
for I don't know when
I shall get another chance

K
L-9

to write again for we
are a going to start for
of ~~the~~ arkansas today
down in the southern part
it will take a week to go
and the same to come back
and we shall stay there three
or four weeks our second
Lieutenant died yesterday he
was taken down with the
fluorid and he got pieced
a going through the swamps
so that a sore came out on him
and it commenced a mortification
he was sick only a week they
start for milwaukee this
morning his name was
Fredricks he leaves a wife and
five children & we have got
no lieutenants now the
second and third of July I had
two days of hard riding went
84 miles and it was awful

R
L-9

bat but we did not see
any thing of the innings
we scoured a house where
they said they was ~~the~~ twenty
five men but they had
gone so that was the end of
that We got our pay yesterday
but we had to pay for our
cloths signing the lotman
roll didnt leave us much
but it was a knief to carry
around in this country
for we cant spend it matter
will get twenty dollars
by the time this gets
home if not before and
the same every two months
as long as I am in the
army I spent my fourth
of July in bloomfield I
eat black berries and drink
hemlock ade about all day
at night we got some

16
L-9
of our boys and sung songs
untill midnight I shall
have to close for I have got
to get ready to start
so good by from yours
Brother R. J. O.

*Headquarters Western Mississippi General Wallace
Commanding Helena Arkansas Aug 10 1862*

Dear Sister

*I sit down after a long
time and a long march to let you know that I am
well and in better health than I have ben since I
left wisconsin we have a long march and a wearasom
one we have lost a good manny men and a good
manny that are sick that will never be fit for
duty again and we can lay it all to our Colnel
if there ever was a Colnel disgrace regiment he
has ____ him and four or five pickets have place our
reigtment so that if we should be in service a year
longer and win all the glory a reigtment can win
and we can not place our selves as we were before
we left on this trip as a reigtment we had the
name of the daring most service and most goak(?) of anny
reigtment in the service at Saint Louis and at washington
we have lost it in one respect but we will
gain it a gain if the health of the reigtment
holds out if we are in service long a nuf if we
loose every man in the attempt we have got the
men to do it an they have got the will the rippon
Company has gone up I don't belive that there
is ten men left we have ben four weeks on
this trip it has ben awfull hot and dry so that*

the men and horses couldn't get what water they wanted we went through a country two hundred and fifty miles where there has never been any union troops before we have took a lot of prisoners horses and mules and niggers and the Colnel let them take the oath and go off to fight us again and a lot of them were in arms against us and he let three or four go that have hung union men and they knew it and (word-crossed-out) spies that have come in to our camp go and shake hands with the officers tell them a good story take the oath and go all around the camp and leave with more news about the regiment than they knew themselves at the larger river or Hensons ferry six hundred one morning Just at day light pitch on to one hundred and twenty of our men under Major Egelston and cut them all to pieces they kill eleven of our men and wound twenty two three of them have died since and they have taken forty prisoners they was seven from our Company three were wounded and three taken prisoners one of them got away one of them was that indian that we had (word-crossed-out) he kill five be for they could take him he shot two with his revolver and cut one throat with his knife and kill two with his sabre it was pretty hard on major Egelston it being his first trip as a major we started after them to

Cotton plant(ation) so with in four miles and stop for the
night and found out that they was two thousand
strong so we started back and come to helena (Ark)
and got there on the six(th) where we found a
bout ten thousand and Genral Curtis in
Command and they have got five gun
boats and four mortar boats and a lot of
transports they keep them fired up day and
night for they expect on atack every day the
sutlers awful high for things here they ask
two dollars and a halve for a cotton shirt they
aint much news here at present all the
excitement at present is about the six hundred
more soldiers we need a good many more than
have for we have to fight at adisadvantage
for they have all the advantage an enemy could
ask for if John(brother) should enlist he had better
enlist in an old reigtment for he aint have
as abt to be sick as a new one we need all we
can get but I hope he wont have to come
he can get rid of it if he is a minto(?) on
a count of his foot if he is a minto(?) I should
like to here frome I have not since the last
of June I send my love to you all
so good by from your affectionate

Brother

Robert L Stewart

Direct your letters as before for I have heard
that we have got to march to morrow morning at 8 oclock

Aug 10 1862
Helena. Ark.

Headquarters Western Mississippi General Pollock
Commanding Helena Arkansas Aug 10 1862

Dear Distler

I sit down after a long long
time and a long march to let you know that I am
well and in better health than I have been since I
left Wisconsin we have a long march and a wearisome
one we have lost a good many men and a good
many that are sick that will never be fit for
duty again and we can lay it all to our leaders
if there was a Colonel disgrace regiment he
has our him and four or five pickets have filched
regiment so that if we should be in service a year
longer and win all the glory regiment can win
and we can not place our selves as we were before
we left on this trip as a regiment we had the
name of the ^{best} most service and most good of any
regiment in the service at Saint Louis and at ^{Washington} we
have lost it in one respect but we will
gain it a gain if the health of the regiment
holds out if we are in service long a day if we
lose every man in the attempt we have got the
men to do it as they have got the will the ^{regiment}
company has gone up I don't believe that there
is ten men left we have been four weeks on
this trip it has been a very hot and dry so that

A-

Aug 10 1862 (25)

The men and horses couldnt get what water
they wanted we went through a country two
hundred and fifty miles where there has never been
any man. troops before we have took a lot of
prisoners horses and mules and muggies and the
Colonel let them take the oath and go off to
fight if us again and a lot of them were
in arms against us and he let three or
four go that have been men and they
knew it and ~~spies~~ spies that have come in
to our camp go and shake hands with the offi^{ers}
tell them a good story take the oath and go all
around the camp and leave with more news
about the capture than they men them
selves at the larger river as Hansens ferry six
hundred one morning just at day light pitch
in to our hundred and twenty of our men
under Major Eggleston and cut them all to
pieces they kill eleven of our men and wounded
twenty two three of them have died since and
they have taken forty prisoners they was seen
from our company three were wounded and three
taken prisoners one of them got away one of
them was that indian that we had ~~killed~~ he
killed five before they could take him he shot
two with his revolver and cut one throat
with his knife and kill two with his
saw it was pretty on major Eggleston it being his
first trip as a major we started after them to

Cotton plant is within four miles and stop for the
night and found out that there was ^{and} two thousand
strong so we started back and came to Helena
and got there on the six where we found a
batt ten thousand and General Curtis in
command and they have got five gun
boats and four masted boats and a lot of
transports they keep them fired up day and
night for they expect an attack every day the
sutlers awful high for things here they ask
two dollars and a half for a cotton shirt they
aint much news here at present all the
excitement at present is about the six hundred
more soldiers we need a good many more than
have for we have to fight at disadvantage
for they have all the advantage an enemy could
ask for if John should enlist he had better
enlist in an old regiment for he aint have
as apt to be sick as a new one we need all we
can get but I hope he wont have to come
he can get rid of it if he is a minto on
account of his foot if he is a minto I should
like to hear from him I have not since the last
of June I send my love to you all
so good by from your affectionate
brother

Robert G. Stewart

Direct your letters as before for I have heard ^{along} that
that we have got to march to morrow morning

*Head Quarters Army of the South west
Genral Steel(e) Commanding Helena Arkansas
Sept 11th 1862*

Dear Sister

*I sit down to write you
one more to let you know that I am well
and in good spirrites as the times will allow
the reigtment is split up some of them are
in the cape(Girardeau) and the rest of us is here one
third of them that are here are sick so that
it keeps the rest of them on duty all of the
time they aint much doing here at present
and wount be untill the fall campaign be
gins and I hope that it will comence pretty
soon for I want to see it over for I am
agetting tired of seeing them guarding reble property
it takes a third of our army to day to
guard it and it give them a chance what
all to havse to give the enemy all the
that they want to know about what is
a going on and that is done every day and
that is the way that our boys got cut up
they wont let you have a drink of watter
nor you cant get a canteen of watter
for the sick that are suffering for it and if
you go to get it the guard will come up
and show the safety guard pafs(passes)so you will*

so you will have to go off with out it
they aint know news as I know of except
what we get from washington and that
you get before we do but I hope that you
will get this letter for it will be the last
one for a while for I am with out postage
stamps and money I want(to) write to John(brother)
but I cant I aint (heard) from home nor you
for over two months I don't know whether
they have got ther money or not nor herd
what is a going on except what I here from
the other boys I shall have to close for I aint
got time to write anny more so good by

I send my love to you all from your
affectionate Brother R L Stewart

Sept 11, 1862

Head Quarters Army of the South west
General Staff Commanding The 1st Arkansas
Sept 11, 1862

Dear sister

I sit down to write you
one more to let you know that I am well
and in good spirits as the times will allow
the regiment is split up some of them are
in the camp and the rest of us is here and
third of them that are here are sick so that
it keeps the rest of them on duty all of the
time they are much doing here at present
not want to wait till the fall campaign be-
gins and I hope that it will commence pretty
soon for I want to see it over for I am
getting tired of seeing them guarding well property
it takes a third of our army to ~~do~~ day to
guard it and it give them a chance what
-as to having to give the enemy all the
that they want to know about what is
going on and that is done every day and
that is the way that our boys get cut up
they want let you have a drink of water
but you cant get ~~and~~ ^a canteen of water
for the sick that are suffering for it and if
you go to get it the guard will come up
and show the safety guard safe so you will

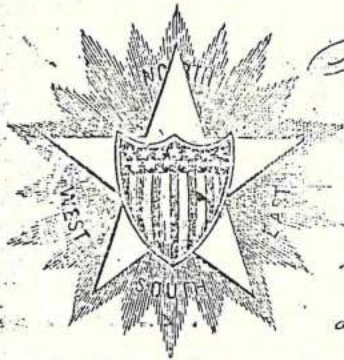
Sept 11 1862

so you will have to go off with out it
they aint know news as I know of except
what we get from washington and that
you get before we do but I hope that you
will get this letter for it will be the last
one for a while for I am with out postage
stamps and money I want write to John
but I cant I aint from home nor you
for over two months I dont know whether
they have got the money or not nor how
what is a going on except what I hear from
the other boys I shall have to close for I aint
got time to write any more so good by
I send my love to you all from yours
affectionate Brother N. P. Stewart

*here mother well but I
am a fraid that it is to hard
work for her there to alfons I
dont know the reasons why
John(brother) dont write but I shall write
to him to morrow it is hard
work to steel anny thing where
our reigiment for we have ben
through a poor Country wher
we could not get a nuff to
eat and drink since I have
ben sick I have herd but a
verry little news so they aint
anny youse of me trying to
write anny I shall have to
close for I am tired so good
by Robert L Stewart*

*Direct your letter to Cape
Girardeau Mo first Regt
of wis Cav Co D*

No Oct 16th 1862



Post Hospital St Louis
Dear Sister

I receive your
letter on the 13th inst
and was glad to hear
that you were all a getting a
long for your letter finds me
pretty poor off I have been
sick now for two months
but not so ^{bad} but what I could
help my self I have been here
three weeks but I am no better
but then I am acclimated, it is
the dysentary that is the matter
with me I don't think that
I shall get well as long as
I am in the south but
time will tell I hope that
I shall soon get out of
here for it is a tiresome place
to stay in I was glad to

Oct 16 1862

~~at~~ here weather well but I
am afraid that it is too hard
work for her there to afford I
don't know the reasons why
John don't write but I shall write
to him to morrow it is hard
work to steal any thing where
our regiment for we have been
through ~~in~~ a poor country where
we could not get a muf to
eat and drink since I have
been sick I have had but a
very little news so they aint
any more of me trying to
write any I shall have to
close for I am tired so good
by Robert L Stewart

Direct your letter to Capt
Gerardian No first Regt
of Wis. Cav Co D

L
L
L
L

Robert L Stuard Thaleria
Henry Rath: must
Robert L. Stuard must
Stuard St. Louis
Stuart
St. Louis